

STATE OF ALASKA

**FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
GOVERNOR**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

1300 COLLEGE RD.
FAIRBANKS, AK 97701
PHONE: (907) 459-7289
FAX: (907) 456-3091

FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH04-III-GP-004

ISSUED: May 5, 2004
EXPIRES: December 31, 2008

General Public:

- RE: In-water Equipment and Vehicle Stream Crossings at Traditional Ford Locations;
- Section 29, T14N, R8E, CRM, Bone Creek (Stream No. 212-20-10080-2605-3060);
 - Sections 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, and 24, T14N, R7E, CRM, Slana River (Stream No. 212-20-10080-2605);
 - Sections 9, 11, and 12, T14N, R6E, CRM, Slana River (Stream No. 212-20-10080-2605);
 - Section 10, T14N, R6E, CRM, Alteration Creek (Stream No. 212-20-10080-2605-3090);
 - Section 12, T14N, R6E, CRM, Unnamed Slana River Tributary (212-20-10080-2605-3080). Note: The crossing at this location must be made below the confluence of this unnamed tributary of the Slana River and the Slana River.

In response to local needs for light vehicular access across several anadromous fish streams designated pursuant to AS 41.14.870(a), the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP) upon its own motion, has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and wildlife would be served by reissuing a general AS 41.14.870 permit for certain classes and types of vehicular crossings at specified locations within Bone Creek, Slana River, Alteration Creek, and an Unnamed Slana River Tributary.

Bone Creek, Slana River, Alteration Creek, and an Unnamed Slana River Tributary have been specified as being important for the migration, spawning, or rearing of anadromous fishes in accordance with AS 41.14.870(a). Chinook and sockeye salmon use these portions of the waterbodies; resident fish species also are present in these waters.

In accordance with AS 41.14.870(d)(Anadromous Fish Act), authorization is hereby given for the general public to ford Bone Creek, Slana River, Alteration Creek, and an

Unnamed Slana River Tributary within a 500 foot centerline of the identified traditional ford crossings with wheeled or tracked vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW). Heavier vehicles are not covered under this General Permit and are required to apply for and obtain an individual Fish Habitat Permit. This authorization is subject to the following stipulations:

- (1) Crossings shall be made from bank to bank in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of stream flow.
- (2) Crossings shall be made only at locations with gradually sloping banks. There shall be no crossings at locations with sheer or cut banks.
- (3) Banks shall not be altered or disturbed in any way to facilitate crossings. No alteration of the stream bank shall occur which creates conditions that have been documented to result in the loss of or to reduce the productivity of fish habitat. If stream banks are inadvertently disturbed, they shall be immediately stabilized to prevent erosion.

The vehicle owner and the operator, or the legal guardian of minor dependents is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who participate in the approved activity. For any activity that significantly deviates from this approval, the responsible party shall notify the OHMP and obtain written approval in the form of an individual permit before beginning the activity. Any action taken by the permittee, or an agent of the permittee, that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of the OHMP. Therefore, it is recommended that the OHMP be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved plan is being considered.

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 41.14.870. This permit must be retained on site during the permitted activity. Please be advised that this approval does not relieve you of the responsibility of securing other permits, state, federal or local.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. The OHMP reserves the right to require mitigation measures to correct disruption to fish and game created by the project and which is a direct result of the failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

The recipient of this permit (the permittee) shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the OHMP, its agents and its employees from any and all claims, actions or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or the permittee's performance under this permit. However, this

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provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the OHMP's negligence.

Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by OHMP; other divisions with ADNR also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of the responsibility for securing other permits, state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

This permit decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330--44.62.630.

Sincerely,

Dick LeFebvre, Deputy Commissioner



BY: Robert F. McLean, Area Manager
Office of Habitat Management and Permitting
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

ecc: Pete McGee, ADEC, Fairbanks
Harry Bader, ADNR, Fairbanks
BLM, Glennallen
Larry Bright, USFWS, Fairbanks
Jeanne Hanson, NMFS, Anchorage
Janet Herr, NMFS, Anchorage
ACOE, Anchorage
Steve Borell, AMA, Anchorage
Wayne Dolezal, ADF&G, Anchorage
Tom Taube, ADF&G, Glennallen
Bob Tobey, ADF&G, Glennallen

RFM/llj